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Consideration of special reports

Special reports

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

Introduction

1. At its 2001 regular session, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, in accordance with paragraph 61 (c) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, requested the following organizations to submit special reports on abuses brought to the attention of the Committee by the Islamic Republic of Iran (see E/2001/86, para. 112):

International Association of Democratic Lawyers

International Federation of Human Rights Leagues

New Human Rights

Women's Human Rights International Association

Movement against Racism and for Friendship among Peoples

I. Background

2. At the 2001 regular session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran lodged formal complaints against (a) the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, (b) the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues, (c) New Human Rights, (d) the Women's Human Rights International Association and (e) the Movement against Racism and for Friendship among Peoples, on the grounds that they had provided the opportunity to individuals who were members of the Modjahedin Khalgh Organization/National Council of Resistance (MKO/NCR), a movement deemed a terrorist one in the Islamic Republic of Iran, to take part in the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights (see E/2001/86, paras. 111-112).

3. The representative further stated that members of this group who had been accredited by these five organizations had made written and oral statements, arranged a film show and distributed different publications during the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights and even before. The delegation had brought the matter to the attention of the Chairman of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission in a letter dated 3 April 2001 addressed to him from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations in Geneva. A copy of that letter was provided to the members of the Committee.

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4. The representative stated that those continued acts constituted clear violations of the letter and the spirit of the rules set forth in Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, in particular paragraph 57 (a), and asked for a special report on that abuse by those non-governmental organizations. The Committee decided that those five organizations should be asked to present special reports on the abuses brought to the attention of the Committee by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

5. The Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat transmitted the request for these reports to the five non-governmental organizations concerned. The reports received from these organizations are reproduced below.

II. Special report submitted by the International Association of Democratic Lawyers

The President, Secretary-General and Bureau of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers present this special report requested by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, paragraph 61 (c).

The special report was required to respond to the complaint filed by the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations with the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations concerning the accreditation by the International Association of Democratic Lawyers of certain persons for participation during the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights which took place at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 19 March to 27 April 2001.

The President of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, Jitendra Sharma, received a fax dated 16 April from the NGO Liaison Office, United Nations Office at Geneva, bringing to his attention the complaint from the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations and requesting "attention to this matter" on the part of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers.

Deeply concerned that the International Association of Democratic Lawyers should appear to have breached any rule, regulation or policy affecting the Association's relationship among and between any United Nations agency and a nation State, President Sharma proposed to the Bureau of the Association the immediate adoption of an express policy, which had previously been provided only orally to representatives of the Association, concerning accreditation by representatives of the Association. He introduced the following policy which was formally ratified by the Bureau in May 2001 at the Bureau of the Association meeting held in Sofia, Bulgaria.

This policy is crafted to ensure that there will be no repetition of any person's speaking at any United Nations-sponsored meeting without the express authority of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers. The Bureau of the Association adopted the following policy which is binding on the President, the Secretary-General, all other Bureau members and authorized United Nations representatives. It stipulates that:

> No one may represent the International Association of Democratic Lawyers other than members of the Bureau of the Association and the Association's accredited United Nations representatives at various United Nations official venues including, but not limited to, all United Nations meetings convened at New York Headquarters, meetings convened by the Commission on Human Rights in New York and Geneva, meetings of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and any other meetings held in Paris, Vienna or elsewhere under United Nations auspices.
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> Any person seeking to address any United Nations meeting or forum on behalf of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, other than duly credentialled representatives of the Association to the United Nations in New York, Geneva, Paris and Vienna or Bureau members, must request and receive approval for such participation from the President or Secretary-General of the Association; or, if time does not permit that process, applicants must obtain written authorization to attend or speak at any meeting on behalf of the Association from any officer or member of the Bureau of the Association.

The Bureau and members of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers trusts that these measures will respond to the complaint lodged with the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations by the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations.

The International Association of Democratic Lawyers wishes to express its profound regrets and sincere apologies to the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations for any concerns that its failure to comply with its policy may have caused. In respect of the substance of the Permanent Mission's complaint, the Association has insufficient information to determine its merits but the individuals in question should not have been provided accreditation by the Association's representative in Geneva without the express authorization of either the Association's President, Jitendra Sharma, the Secretary-General, Beinusz Szmukler, or alternatively, any other officer of the Association. The officers and members of the Bureau of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers will make all possible efforts to avoid the occurrence of any such breach in the future.

In the following sections of the special report, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers wishes to draw to the Committee's attention its deep and abiding commitment to the work of the United Nations.

Organizational mission of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers

The aims of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and UNESCO, are:

1. To work together to achieve the aims set out in the Charter of the United Nations.
2. To facilitate contact and exchanges of views between and among lawyers and lawyers' associations of all countries to foster understanding and goodwill among them.
3. To ensure common action by lawyers.
4. In the realm of law, to study and practice the principles of democracy to encourage the maintenance of peace and cooperation among nations.
5. To restore, defend and develop democratic rights and liberties in legislation and in practice.
6. To promote the independence of all peoples and to oppose any restriction on this independence whether in law or in practice.
7. To defend and promote human and peoples' rights.
8. To promote the preservation of ecology and healthy environments.
9. To struggle for strict adherence to the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary and the legal profession.
10. To defend all peoples' rights to development, conditions of economic equality and the enjoyment of the fruits of scientific progress and natural resources.

Membership of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers

Members of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers committed to the mission set forth above include national affiliated organizations of lawyers, legal educators and juridical professionals in more than 90 countries. Individual lawyers, jurists, legal educators and law students not members of national affiliates from any nation State are also included in its membership. Bureau members of the Association geographically represent the range of its membership. The current President of the Association is from India, the Secretary-General is from Argentina, the Deputy Secretary-General is from Algeria, the Vice-Presidents are from France, the Sudan and the United States of America, and the Bureau members are from Bulgaria, Catalonia (Spain), Italy, Japan, Pakistan, Palestine, Romania, South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Viet Nam.

Funding of activities of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers

Activities and projects of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers are funded by membership dues paid by affiliate and individual members. The Association also receives donations from individuals and not-for-profit organizations that support the goals and mission of the Association and the specific projects being organized. For example, private donations from individuals also helped support the Association's free election projects in Namibia, South Africa and, most recently, East Timor. The Association has also received grants from United Nations agencies including UNESCO and the former Council for Namibia and other anti-apartheid organs of the United Nations including the Special Committee against Apartheid which helped finance the two editions of the Association's publication, *Nelson Mandela: Lawyer, Leader, Prisoner*, which launched the Association's International Campaign to Free Nelson Mandela. (Unfortunately this publication is now out of print.)

United Nations-related activities of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers

Since the founding of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers in 1946 in Paris, the Association's national affiliates and individual lawyer, jurist and legal educator members have participated in the struggles against the violation of human rights of groups and individuals and threats to international peace and security by legal advocacy and legal arguments under international law. From its inception, Association members throughout the globe have protested against racism, colonialism, and economic and political injustice wherever they interfere with legal and human rights, often at the cost of these jurists' personal safety and economic well-being.

Association campaigns have led to changes in international humanitarian law, like the universal acceptance of the importance of the right to self-determination and the protection of national human rights, through arguments before United Nations bodies and international courts in respect of a reinterpretation of the doctrine of "domestic jurisdiction", formulated in Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter of the United Nations, a former barrier to international action in support of those basic rights.

This global evolution in which lawyers of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers have participated has been made possible by United Nations intervention in situations of massive and institutionalized human rights abuses, beginning with United Nations action in the 1960s regarding South Africa's apartheid policies which had divested the black majority of all human and legal rights.

Employing principles pioneered by the United Nations, lawyers of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, in their homelands, have established fundamental concepts of international and domestic law including the declaration of apartheid as a legal crime against humanity; the provision of prisoner-of-war status to combatants from liberation movements; prohibition of the use of unilateral force by one nation against another; the recognized legal rights of women and children; and the almost universal acceptance of the public policy that there should be legal remedies for racial, religious, economic and cultural discrimination and persecution.

As observers at political trials of defendants like Nelson Mandela, Angela Davis, the Turkish poet Nazim Hikmet, Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya, Abane Ramdame and countless members of the African National Congress, the South West Africa People's Organization and the Palestine Liberation Organization accused of crimes against the State, lawyers of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers and jurists have focused the light of international scrutiny on efforts to silence dissidents. As activist lawyers, they have brought challenges to violations of individual and group rights before the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court, The Hague, the European Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

The International Association of Democratic Lawyers, an international organization with lawyer, jurist and legal educator members on all continents except Australia has, since its founding in 1946, also sponsored many conferences, meetings, seminars and delegations in support of United Nations resolutions and initiatives concerned with, inter alia, peacekeeping, establishment of the International Criminal Court, the

economic, legal and human rights of women and children, immigrants' rights, the law of the sea, sustainable development and the many United Nations covenants and binding resolutions to eliminate slavery and colonialism and in support of the liberation of former territories, colonies and protectorates. The Association also consistently sends non-governmental organization representatives to United Nations bodies including the Preparatory Commission for the International Criminal Court, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Subcommittees of the Commission on Human Rights. In fact, Professor Carol Fine, one of the Association's alternate representatives at United Nations Headquarters, is the current chair of the NGO Committee on Southern Africa in New York.

By the end of the twentieth century, more than 50 years after the founding of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, profound changes in law and international expectations had changed the context in which Association members practise their professions and exercise their political beliefs; but as the most recent activities of the Association attest, contemporary human rights struggles throughout the world still require legal activism in the second millennium.

Committed to the principle of equality among peoples, the rights of all peoples to self-determination, the elimination of imperialism and colonialism and the peaceful settlement of international disputes, the members of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers continue to support these objectives.

Conclusion

As discussed in this special report, since its founding, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers has based its many activities, legal strategies and international legal campaigns on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The Association supports all United Nations initiatives and disseminates information about United Nations activities to its affiliates and members across the globe.

The International Association of Democratic Lawyers pledges its consistent and unqualified support of the United Nations as the only hope for world peace and the ultimate eventual achievement of economic, social and legal rights of all the peoples of the world.

III. Special report submitted by the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues

The International Federation of Human Rights Leagues wishes to provide the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations with information concerning the formal complaint the Committee has registered against our organization, submitted by the permanent delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, on the issue of the accreditation to or participation in the activities of the fifty-seventh session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, of the Modjahedin Khalgh Organization/ National Council of Resistance (MKO/NCR).

The International Federation of Human Rights Leagues has never accredited any member of MKO, or of NCR, to the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights. None of the five members referred to in the letter addressed by the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations in Geneva to Mrs. Mary Robinson — a letter in which the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues was not mentioned — nor any of the "other persons who are well-known long-standing members of MKO/NCR" referred to in the statement of the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to your Committee, were in the delegation of the Federation to the fifty-seventh session, as proved by the official list of attendance published by the secretariat of the Commission on Human Rights.

Furthermore, the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues did not engage in any activity parallel to the Commission on Human Rights within the building of the United Nations Office at Geneva in collaboration with members of MKO or NCR, or with any "other persons who are well-known long-standing members of MKO/NCR".

The International Federation of Human Rights Leagues believes that there might be a mistake in the complaint addressed against our organization and hopes the issue will be solved easily. Meanwhile, we remain at the entire disposal of the members of the

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, should any further comment be required.

IV. Special report submitted by New Human Rights

New Human Rights is a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and with headquarters in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

New Human Rights works for the promotion and effective exercise throughout the world of the human rights recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other international human rights instruments of the United Nations, as well as in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San José, Costa Rica) and other related instruments of the Organization of American States. New Human Rights also works for the effective exercise of humanitarian law and for the recognition and adoption of new human rights.

New Human Rights is a sister organization of New Human Rights (Nouveaux droits de l'homme) in Paris. Both organizations, together with member organizations in Europe and Africa belong to NDH-International, which has its headquarters in Buenos Aires. The United Nations Economic and Social Council, at its 1995 substantive session, recognized New Human Rights as a non-governmental organization in consultative status. The recognized names of our organization are: Nuevos Derechos del Hombre (Spanish), Nouveaux droits de l'homme (French), New Human Rights (English) and Nuovi Diritti dell'Uomo (Italian). New Human Rights has permanent representatives at United Nations Headquarters in New York and in Geneva and Vienna and publishes a periodical in Argentina entitled *Noticias* and a periodical in Paris entitled *L'arc-en-ciel*. Thirty-seven issues of *Noticias* have been published and have helped to publicize the work of the United Nations on the subject of human rights. New Human Rights has its own web site in Argentina (http://www.ndh.org.ar) and in France (http://www.ndh-france.org).

New Human Rights in Argentina has been in existence for 11 years and has worked hard for the protection and promotion of human rights, and human rights education. New Human Rights analyses the situation of human rights in various countries through working groups, as well as of specific rights such as the rights of the child and of women. New Human Rights also has a working group for the abolition of capital punishment worldwide. It has its own headquarters (with a library specializing in human rights), where people can obtain free advice about national and international protection of human rights that are under threat. Conferences and round tables on human rights are held at headquarters.

Delegations from New Human Rights have taken part in the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993, the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in Durban in 2001. The organization has also been represented at numerous national and international conferences and seminars on human rights held in the Americas, Europe and Africa.

New Human Rights rejects the accusation made against it by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran because it is untrue. New Human Rights repudiates and combats all forms of terrorism wherever it is practised, whether perpetrated by individuals or by a State. The three Iranian witnesses produced by New Human Rights, Mr. Ehzar Nazin, Mr. Hamid-Reza Eshagui and Mr. Mohamed Nahid, are opponents of the present regime in the Islamic Republic of Iran but they are peaceful citizens who have no connection with any form of violence. The three witnesses are political refugees, the first two living in France and the last one in Germany. In their testimony they refer to violations of human dignity which took place in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On 29 May 2001, New Human Rights also sent a note on this subject to Ms. Mary Robinson, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

New Human Rights has not only committed no breach of the resolutions of the United Nations with respect to the Islamic Republic of Iran but, on the contrary, has fulfilled its specific obligations to monitor compliance with human rights in that country by denouncing violations perpetrated there.

New Human Rights expresses its firm support for the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and remains at the Committee's disposal to provide any other information that it might find useful.

V. Special report submitted by Women's Human Rights International Association

Since its creation in 1991, the main objective of the Women's Human Rights International Association, which has its headquarters in France, has been the defence of women's rights throughout the world on the basis of the international human rights instruments adopted under the auspices of the United Nations.

The statute of the Women's Human Rights International Association specifies that it will "use all peaceful and legal means of action at the national and international levels to attain its objectives" and sets out the means it intends to use for that purpose, which consist of:

1. Collaborating with international bodies for the defence of human rights to take measures to promote women's rights throughout the world;

2. Contributing to the publication of surveys, reports and research to inform public opinion and international bodies of the developing situation of women in various regions of the world, thus promoting equal rights between the sexes;

3. Taking part in international meetings to consider the situation of human rights, particularly women's rights, especially in order to defend specific cases;

4. Establishing contacts with non-governmental organizations for the defence of human rights with a view to collaborating with them to improve the status of women in various countries of the world;

5. Sending missions and observers to various countries to assist groups of women in their fight against gender discrimination and defending the victims of such discrimination;

6. Organizing meetings, conferences, symposiums or other events to strengthen women's solidarity at the international level, thus contributing to the promotion of the human rights of women worldwide.

With a view to attaining its objective, the Women's Human Rights International Association has always been very active, particularly in the context of meetings organized by the United Nations, in promoting women's rights throughout the world. In that context it has taken an active part, often in collaboration with other associations for the defence of women's rights, in the following events:

- The High-level Regional Preparatory Meeting of the Economic Commission for Europe (Vienna, Austria, 17-21 October 1994);
- The Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting (Amman, Jordan, 9 and 10 November 1994);
- The Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing (at which the Women's Human Rights International Association organized a very successful workshop on "religious fundamentalism");
- The European preparatory meeting for the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: Gender equality, development and peace in the twenty-first century" (United Nations Office at Geneva, 19 and 20 January 2000);
- Participation in the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: Gender equality, development and peace in the twenty-first century", in New York and in the workshop and debate on fundamentalism with several other women's' associations;
- The meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women in 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000;
- The World March of Women in October 2000 in Brussels and New York at which members of the Women's Human Rights International Association made statements.

It should also be emphasized that, after being granted consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, the Women's Human Rights International Association extended its field of action by taking part in meetings of various United Nations bodies such as the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights during which members of the

Association spoke on various agenda items concerning women.

Because it was deeply concerned at various forms of inhuman and particularly humiliating treatment, as well as cruel and degrading punishments, meted out to women in various countries in the world, the Association decided to make denunciation of the stoning of women a priority. That is why the Association addressed the subject in the Commission on Human Rights and other competent United Nations bodies, speaking, in particular, about the situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran where the penalty of stoning is frequently imposed and where the status of women remains a matter for great concern. The recent interim report by Mr. Copithorne (A/56/278) issued on 10 August 2001, confirms that there have been further cases of stoning (institutionalized by the Criminal Code) and specifies that "the status of women, particularly their legal status, remains highly discriminatory".

At the most recent meetings of the Association in Geneva with the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran and with Ms. Coomaraswamy, the Commission's Special Rapporteur on violence against women, the Association informed them of the situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran and of the most recent cases of stoning reported in the official Iranian press.

Moreover, having learnt that an Iranian woman, Ms. Maryam Ayoubi, had been sentenced to death by stoning in 1999, the organization campaigned actively to prevent her execution. Unfortunately, the campaign was not successful, since the woman was stoned to death last spring in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This was the background against which the Islamic Republic of Iran complained that the Women's Human Rights International Association had accredited a person belonging to a terrorist organization. This was Mr. Ali-Akbar Kermanchahtchi who had been accredited by the Women's Human Rights International Association to take part in the recent session of the Commission on Human Rights, held in Geneva in March 2001.

In response to that accusation and to prove that it was unfounded, it must be made clear that, as Mr. Ali-Akbar Kermanchahtchi was not a member of the Women's Human Rights International Association, the Association had decided to accredit him by granting a request made by one of its correspondents in London who had suggested on humanitarian grounds that he should be allowed to undergo training as part of his work as a human rights activist. Such services are fully consistent with the activities of non-governmental organizations wishing to promote the defence of human rights throughout the world. Human rights activists or "witnesses" who are not members of non-governmental organizations in consultative status may always be accredited to take part in parallel meetings of the Commission.

The Association points out that Mr. Ali-Akbar Kermanchahtchi, who was born on 25 May 1951 and is of Iranian origin, has been residing in the United Kingdom for 26 years. He was granted political refugee status and is currently a British citizen. He has also studied commercial management in the United Kingdom and now lives at 32 B Bellevue Road, New Southgate, London N11 3ER.

He has suffered since childhood from a serious ophthalmic disorder which has made him almost blind and has to wear spectacles fitted with special lenses. It is because he is so attached to his country of origin, the Islamic Republic of Iran, that he is so sensitive to violations of human rights in that country, a subject on which he is carrying out studies and research. Those who met him at the session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights can testify that he needs assistance with many everyday actions. Consequently, the accusation that he belongs to a terrorist organization is a mere allegation, particularly bearing in mind that Mr. Kermanchahtchi showed great respect for the procedural rules of the Organization while he was at the United Nations Office at Geneva and took no part in the discussions. No incident which might have called in question the behaviour of Mr. Kermanchahtchi was brought to the attention of the Association by the United Nations security services.

The Women's Human Rights International Association unfortunately has to conclude that the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, which appears to be at the root of the problem, remains a matter for great concern. The most recent report submitted by Mr. Capithorne to the United Nations General Assembly describes the Islamic Republic of Iran has "a prison for women". It states that "the condition of women in the Islamic Republic has remained much the same for some years". These

statements justify more than ever the deep concern of the Association with regard to the situation of Iranian women and legitimize its efforts to denounce the situation.

Nevertheless, the Association remains confident that the United Nations which, according to its Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, is the house not only of States but also of peoples and consequently of non-governmental organizations, will never concur in the violation of the right of peoples to freedom of expression by condoning criticism of non-governmental organizations.

The Women's Human Rights International Association thanks the Chief of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section for any assistance she may be so kind as to provide to the Association to ensure that it will continue to enjoy the benefits of its consultative status in order to promote human rights and the objectives of the United Nations.

VI. Special report submitted by the Movement against Racism and for Friendship among Peoples

The officials of the Movement against Racism and for Friendship among Peoples (MRAP) have carefully read the document submitted to the United Nations Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and document E/2001/86, which in paragraphs 111 and 112 reports the complaint made by the Islamic Republic of Iran against five organizations accredited in Geneva, including our own.

The main allegation is that MRAP, and the other non-governmental organizations accused, accredited certain persons stated to be members of the Modjahedin Khalgh Organization. The two people accredited by MRAP in 2001, as in earlier years, were Mr. Hamid Reza Eshaghi and Mr. Bezhad Naziri.

In his statement on 11 May 2001, Ambassador Mohamed Hassan Fadaifard said that the Iranians accredited by the non-governmental organizations had threatened the safety of the members of the Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran. With respect to those persons accredited by MRAP, the permanent delegate of the Movement to the United Nations Office at Geneva confirms that nothing of the kind occurred: it would not have been allowed. No incident of any kind was reported by the security services.

Since 1989 when he first represented the Movement, he has, as a matter of principle, forbidden any accredited person to go beyond what has been agreed on by all delegates. No speech is made unless the text has been vetted in its entirety.

That principle was again applied this year. However, the Iranian Mission refers to the distribution of brochures by Mr. Eshaghi and Mr. Naziri. The permanent delegate is certain that there was no such distribution during the meeting; it was only copies of the statements made that were provided to the non-governmental organizations that were members of the Commission and to observers who so requested.

It may be that documents were passed round privately outside the meeting room, particularly in the bar; the permanent delegate feels bound to point that this is an entirely normal practice: he has given internal documents of the Movement against Racism and for Friendship among Peoples to persons who might be interested. This cannot in any way be regarded as amounting to spreading propaganda. It must be recalled that both in the Commission and in the Subcommission there have always been accredited persons, whether human rights activists or "witnesses", who did not belong to organizations in consultative status. Such persons may quite legally be invited to take part in parallel meetings organized by non-governmental organizations. Such meetings take place very frequently and, as far as he is aware, they do not give rise to any incidents either.

The Iranian request also refers to the film show organized by MRAP, the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues and the International Association of Democratic Lawyers. The film was not tendentious and was not propaganda; it was a short film used for training hospital staff responsible for carrying out a sentence of enucleation. The film contained no criticism directed at the Teheran Government.

The permanent delegate should, however, mention that an incident did occur just before the actual meeting: a person unknown to the Movement wanted to distribute a leaflet and was prevented from doing so by a security guard; this happened very quickly and without any form of physical or even verbal violence.

Because of its origins (the resistance, the struggle against colonialism, apartheid, and so forth) the Movement against Racism and for Friendship among Peoples is very responsive to violations of human rights anywhere in the world, particularly those arising from racism, exclusion, intolerance, sexism or chauvinism.

That is why the Movement has among its members people who are now well known but who were not so originally: Mr. Ymer Jaka, Director of Higher Education in Kosovo, Mr. José Ramos Horta, Minister for Foreign Affairs of East Timor and a Nobel prize winner. Through our friend, Ms. Daure-Serfaty, we have denounced the repression in Morocco against the political opposition, which still continues with respect to the Saharan people. We have allowed the Turkish Kurds to speak and have responded to the struggle of the Palestinians.

The representatives of the countries involved (Indonesia, Morocco and Turkey) have sometimes made critical but always courteous remarks to the Movement; they have never disputed the Movement's entitlement to express its opinion on such matters. On one occasion a Counsellor from the Iranian Mission even came to find the permanent delegate to try and convince him that Mr. Copithorne's report should be interpreted differently. He was very polite and so was the permanent delegate. However, the latter remained unconvinced.

There are also the other areas in which the Movement takes action: racism, migrant workers, inequality throughout the world. The permanent delegate believes that the assessments by MRAP often receive careful attention.

The Islamic Republic of Iran accuses the Movement of promoting the dissemination of false information about events in that country.

Far from defending terrorism, the interventions of the Movement always focus on the need to respect human rights; the permanent delegate gives an assurance that such interventions are concerned exclusively with items on the agenda: religious freedom, status of women, freedom of information, administration of justice, continuation of cruel and degrading treatment such as stoning and public hanging: none of this bears any resemblance to political interference, still less to terrorism.

The interventions of the Movement are based on the reports of Mr. Copithorne, the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights, on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The word "terrorism", as everyone knows, needs to be used with care; as far as MRAP is concerned, it wishes only to focus on the facts. A well-known Iranian opponent of the regime, Mr. Kazem Radjavi, was assassinated in Geneva in Spring 1990. A year ago, the City and Canton of Geneva organized an official ceremony in his memory paying a tribute not only to him personally but also to the cause he fought for. This seems to indicate that, for these responsible authorities, it is possible to be an opponent without being a terrorist.

Ultimately, the accusation made against MRAP, and other organizations, is that they have dealings with Iranian political opponents (and, as far as the Movement is concerned, it does receive documents not all of which come from the Modjahedin Khalgh).

Obviously everything which relates to the life of the city State is political; but it is well established that there is a difference between politics and the body politic (in classical Greek, *ta politika, hē politeia*); that is why the United Nations has not only organs that are political in the true sense but also bodies such as the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights and many others.

Is it therefore true that any criticism of an aspect of the policy of a State with respect to human rights is interference in, or even an act of violence against, the life of that State? MRAP has never refrained from criticizing specific aspects of the policy of France or the European Union with respect to immigration and asylum, and those who are the targets of such criticisms may find that difficult to accept. A debate without difficulty is merely a charade.

In conclusion, as far as the substance is concerned, nothing that is mentioned in Mr. Copithorne's report has today been rendered obsolete by events. What all advocates of human rights hope is that very soon the Special Representative, having returned to the Islamic Republic of Iran, will be able to write a different report declaring that everything he and others had previously said is history.

The permanent delegate wishes to conclude by saying that the activity of the Movement against Racism and for Friendship among Peoples in France, in Europe and at the United Nations always focuses directly on combating present-day forms of racism, and on promoting freedom and equality for individuals and peoples. This is widely recognized by the authorities with which MRAP is in contact and which readily express support for the campaigns conducted by the Movement.